Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 16 and 21 as shown in the following list of claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of

5 claims in the application.

1   1.   (currently amended) A method of inventorying data carriers by means of a

2   communication station, wherein said communication station and each data carrier

3   are brought into communicative connection, and wherein each data carrier brought

4   into communicative connection with the communication station generates a

5   response signal enabling the inventorying of the data carrier after at least one

6   operational condition has been fulfilled and supplies said response signal using a

7   transmission start moment that can be chosen from a plurality of transmission start

8   moments that are defined from ~~a predefined moment~~ a carrier signal end moment

9   that coincides with the end of a transmission of a carrier signal from said

10 communication station, wherein each of the transmission start moments results

11 from a sum of a common selectable discrete time period and a number of waiting

12 time periods from the ~~predefined~~ carrier signal end moment such that each of the

13 transmission start moments coincides with the beginning of one of the waiting

14 time periods, where the number of waiting time periods is defined from the end of

15 the common selectable discrete time period, and wherein each data carrier before

16 providing its response signal tests whether another data carrier is already

17 providing its response signal, and wherein each data carrier discontinues the

18 provision of its response signal if another data carrier is already giving its

19 response signal.

1   2.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each data

2   carrier already before generating its response signal tests whether another data

3   carrier is giving its response signal, and wherein each data carrier discontinues the

4   generation of its response signal if another data carrier is already giving its

5   response signal.

1   3.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

2   response signal given is an identification signal.

1   4.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

2   number of said waiting periods is selected by a random principle.

1   5.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, <u>further comprising</u>

2   <u>transmitting an inventory command from the communication station during the</u>

3   <u>transmission of the carrier signal, the duration of the inventory command being</u>

4   <u>shorter than the duration of the transmission of the carrier signal</u> ~~wherein the~~

5   ~~predefined moment is at a command signal end of a command signal given by the~~

6   ~~communication station~~.

1   6.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

2   number of selectable transmission start moments is greater than the number of

3   data carriers.

1   7.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a data

2   carrier that has given a response signal can be set to an idle state by the

3   communication station, in which idle state no response signal is provided.

1   8.   (currently amended) A data carrier, which data carrier is designed for

2   contactless communication with a communication station and which comprises an

3   integrated circuit, which integrated circuit comprises the following means:

4   response signal generation means for generating a response signal start moment

5   selection means by which a transmission start moment can be selected from a

6   plurality of transmission start moments that are defined from ~~a predefined moment~~

7   <u>a carrier signal end moment that coincides with the end of a transmission of a</u>

8   <u>carrier signal from said communication station</u>, wherein each of the transmission

9   start moments results from a sum of a common selectable discrete time period and

10   a number of waiting time periods from the ~~predefined~~ <u>carrier signal end</u> moment

11   <u>such that each of the transmission start moments coincides with the beginning of</u>

12   <u>one of the waiting time periods,</u> where the number of waiting time periods is

13   defined from the end of the common selectable discrete time period, and response

14   signal recognition means designed for recognizing a response signal given by

15   another data carrier and for generating and delivering a response signal

16   recognition signal and wherein delivery decision means are provided which

17   release or block a delivery of the response signal in dependence on the response

18   signal recognition signal and the transmission start moment.

1   9.   (previously presented) A data carrier as claimed in claim 8, wherein the

2   response signal generation means are formed by identification signal generation

3   means.

1   10.   (previously presented) A data carrier as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein

2   the response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a carrier

3   signal.

1   11.   (previously presented) A data carrier as claimed in claim 8, wherein the

2   response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a modulated

3   carrier signal and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which are

4   designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal.

1   12.   (currently amended) An integrated circuit for a data carrier which data

2   carrier is designed for contactless communication with a communication station,

3   said integrated circuit comprising the following means: response signal generation

4   means for generating a response signal start moment selection means by which a

5   transmission start moment can be selected from a plurality of transmission start

6   moments that are defined from ~~a predefined moment~~ <u>a carrier signal end moment</u>

7   <u>that coincides with the end of a transmission of a carrier signal from said</u>

8   <u>communication station</u>, wherein each of the transmission start moments results

9   from a sum of a common selectable discrete time period and a number of waiting

10   time periods from the ~~predefined~~ <u>carrier signal end</u> moment <u>such that each of the</u>

11   <u>transmission start moments coincides with the beginning of one of the waiting</u>

12   <u>time periods</u>, where the number of waiting time periods is defined from the end of

13   the common selectable discrete time period, and response signal recognition

1   means designed for recognizing a response signal given by another data carrier

2   and for generating and delivering a response signal recognition signal and wherein

3   delivery decision means are provided which release or block a delivery of the

4   response signal in dependence on the response signal recognition signal and the

5   transmission start moment.

1   13.   (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 12,

2   wherein the response signal generation means are formed by identification signal

3   generation means.

1   14.   (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 12,

2   wherein the response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a

3   carrier signal.

1   15.   (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 12,

2   wherein the response signal recognition means are designed for recognizing a

3   modulated carrier signal and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which

4   are designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal.

1   16.   (currently amended) A method of inventorying data carriers, which

2   method comprises the following steps:

3   choosing from a plurality of transmission start moments, which are defined

4   from a signal end moment that coincides with the end of a transmission of a signal

5   from a communication station, ~~that are defined from a predefined moment~~ a

6   transmission start moment for starting a transmission of a carrier response signal

7   for the purpose of supplying data to [[a]] said communication station during the

8   transmission of said carrier signal, wherein the data enable the inventory of the

9   data carrier, and wherein each of the transmission start moments results from a

10   sum of a common selectable discrete time period and a number of waiting time

11   periods from the ~~predefined~~ signal end moment such that each of the transmission

12   start moments coincides with the beginning of one of the waiting time periods,

13   where the number of waiting time periods is defined from the end of the common

14   selectable discrete time period;

1   testing whether another data carrier is already transmitting a carrier signal

2   after said ~~predefined~~ <u>signal end</u> moment and prior to said chosen transmission

3   start moment; and

4   inhibiting the starting of said transmission of said carrier signal at said

5   chosen transmission start moment if the result of said testing is positive.

1   17.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, comprising

2   starting the transmission of said carrier signal at the chosen transmission start

3   moment if said result of said testing is negative.

1   18.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, comprising

2   transmitting a response signal between two time periods during the carrier signal

3   transmission to take into account transient phenomena.

1   19.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the

2   transmission start moment is selected by a random principle.

1   20.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein said

2   choosing of said transmission start moment allows the number of choose-able

3   transmission start moments to be greater than the number of data carriers.

1   21.   (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 16, <u>further comprising</u>

2   <u>transmitting an inventory command from the communication station during the</u>

3   <u>transmission of the signal, the duration of the inventory command being shorter</u>

4   <u>than the duration of the transmission of the signal</u> ~~wherein said choosing of the~~

5   ~~transmission start moment is performed in such a way that said predefined~~

6   ~~moment is defined as the end of a carrier signal transmission of the~~

7   ~~communication station, the communication station supplied its data representing~~

8   ~~an inventory command during its carrier signal transmission~~.

1   22.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein said

2   choosing of the transmission start moment comprises shifting said transmission

3   start moment in time by a selectable discrete delay period with respect to said end

4   of the carrier signal transmission of said communication station.

1   23.   (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 17, comprising

2   setting said data carrier that has supplied its data as identification data into an idle

3   state by the communication station, in which idle state no carrier signal is

4   transmitted.